

# NEBRASKA

## WEATHER & CROPS



Issue: 28-98

Released: 9/14/98 - 3:00 p.m.

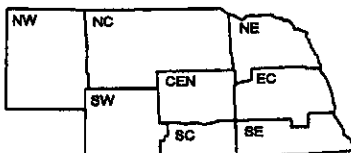
For Week Ending September 13, 1998

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National Agricultural Statistics Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
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National Weather Service



Nebraska Department of Agriculture  
Division of Agr'l. Statistics  
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### WEATHER

Again, the week was dry and warm. Temperatures averaged three to five degrees above normals in the east, while temperatures in western counties were near ten degrees above normals. The only precipitation of any measure was reported in the Northwest, with the largest report being forty-five hundredths in Hemmingford.

### GENERAL

Dry, hot conditions prevailed for yet another week causing rapid maturing and drydown of fall crops, according to Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Corn moisture levels were as low as the teens in portions of the south while reports from northern counties indicated moisture levels were still in the 30's. Corn silage harvest was nearing completion in some counties while wheat seeding passed the halfway point in the Panhandle. Insect damage continued to be reported in farm stored grain. Other producer activities included hay and dry bean harvest and livestock care.

### CROPS

Corn condition rated 3% poor, 16% fair, 61% good, and 20% excellent. Dryland corn rated 79% in good or excellent condition and 82% of the irrigated corn rated in those categories. Nearly half, or 47%, of the crop was mature, ahead of 11% a year earlier and 15% average. Corn harvested was at 2%, compared to 0% last year and 1% average. Drydown was so rapid that some southern feedlots were searching for "wet" grain to put in bunkers.

### CROPS (cont.)

Soybean condition rated 1% poor, 16% fair, 62% good, and 21% excellent. Soybeans coloring was at 75%, ahead of 64% last year and 53% average. Soybeans dropping leaves jumped to 25%, ahead of 15% last year and 18% average. A few fields had been harvested, but combining was yet to get underway in most areas.

Sorghum condition rated 1% poor, 11% fair, 72% good, and 16% excellent. Nearly all the crop, 92%, was coloring, well ahead of 79% last year and 71% average. Sorghum mature jumped to 29%, with 6% last year and 10% average.

Dry bean condition rated 1% very poor, 11% poor, 32% fair, 43% good and 13% excellent. Nearly all the crop was turning color. Acreage dropping leaves rose to 73%, ahead of 63% last year, and 61% average. Harvest moved rapidly to 26%, compared to 27% last year and 24% average.

Alfalfa condition rated 1% very poor, 4% poor, 22% fair, 66% good and 7% excellent. Third cutting activities were virtually complete with fourth cuttings occurring where adequate moisture or irrigation was available.

Winter Wheat seeding advanced to 33%, near 36% last year and 29% average. Some producers were holding back seeding hoping for additional moisture to improve germination prospects.

### LIVESTOCK, PASTURE & RANGE

Pasture and range condition rated 2% very poor, 9% poor, 31% fair, 51% good, and 7% excellent. Dusty conditions in portions of the West and South were causing respiratory problems in calves and feedlot cattle.

CROP PROGRESS AS OF September 13, 1998	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER- AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Corn Mature	22	23	33	45	67	25	65	57	47	9	11	15
% Corn Harvested	1	0	2	3	2	0	2	4	2	1	0	1
% Soybeans Turning Color	100	86	62	84	76	61	94	91	75	37	64	53
% Soybeans Dropping Leaves	33	28	10	35	29	12	39	45	25	4	15	18
% Sorghum Coloring	na	95	84	95	90	90	95	94	92	79	79	71
% Sorghum Mature	na	12	1	17	40	1	16	37	29	5	6	10
% Alfafa Third Cutting	82	99	91	99	98	99	98	100	95	90	89	89
% Dry Beans Turning Color	94	88	100	100	na	99	na	na	95	81	91	92
% Dry Beans Dropping Leaves	65	44	70	61	na	93	na	na	73	40	63	61
% Dry Beans Harvested	20	17	5	4	na	40	na	na	26	na	27	24
% Wheat Planted	53	38	1	19	13	17	13	3	33	9	36	29
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF September 11, 1998												
Days suitable	6.9	7.0	7.0	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	5.7	
Topsoil moisture - Very Short	4	9	0	6	0	23	19	21	9	5	14	
(Percent) - Short	52	58	41	57	50	38	53	44	49	39	31	
- Adequate	44	33	59	37	50	39	28	35	42	56	53	
- Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Subsoil moisture - Very Short	1	4	0	3	1	17	4	3	3	5	12	
(Percent) - Short	40	44	9	39	18	35	50	23	31	29	37	
- Adequate	59	52	90	58	81	48	46	74	66	65	51	
- Surplus	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	

n/a = not available.

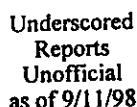
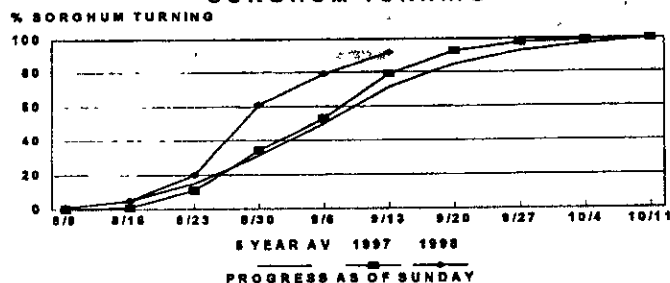
Periodical Postage  
Paid at  
Lincoln, Nebraska

NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS

P.O. Box 81069  
Lincoln, NE 68501

NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS (ISSN 0745-0117) is published weekly April-November and monthly December-March by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), 100 Centennial Mall North, Room 273 Federal Building, Lincoln, NE 68508. Subscription is free to survey respondents upon request to NASS, P.O. Box 81069, Lincoln, NE 68501, or by calling (402) 437-5541 and available for \$15.00 per year to non-reporters. It is also available free by polling our FAX at (402) 437-5547 after 3:30 p.m. CT. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS, P.O. Box 81069, Lincoln, NE 68501.

## SORGHUM TURNING



	PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - SEPTEMBER 12, 1996							
	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week . . . . .	.18	0	.01	0	.01	0	0	.01
Total since April 1 . . . . .	12.62	18.35	23.50	16.86	25.19	14.36	15.41	18.36
Normal since April 1 . . . . .	12.46	15.56	17.59	17.16	19.30	14.40	17.22	19.88
Total as % of normal . . . . .	101%	118%	134%	98%	131%	100%	89%	92%

WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1998									
Station		Temperature			Precipitation	Growing Degree Data			
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches	Last Week	Since April 15	
		Max	Min					Current	Normal
NW	Chadron	102	52	76	---	35	---	---	---
	Scottsbluff	97	53	74	+10	.17	149	2467	2331
	Sidney	98	52	73	---	.17	145	2359	2374
NC	Valentine	100	54	75	+11	0	---	---	---
	Arthur	---	---	---	---	---	145	2461	2549
	O'Neill	---	---	---	---	---	147	2687	2704
NE	Norfolk	93	49	71	+5	0	---	---	---
	Sioux City	94	47	71	+5	T	---	---	---
	Concord	---	---	---	---	---	127	2712	2776
	Elgin	---	---	---	---	---	147	2735	2761
	West Point	---	---	---	---	---	131	2826	2940
	Grand Island	104	51	74	+10	0	147	2851	2802
CEN	Ord	100	55	74	---	0	148	2763	2778
	Kearney	---	---	---	---	---	149	2828	2788
	Lincoln	97	50	71	+3	0	151	3096	3058
EC	Omaha	95	53	72	+5	T	---	---	---
	Central City	---	---	---	---	---	138	2832	2828
	Mead	---	---	---	---	---	135	2996	3035
SW	Imperial	100	58	77	---	0	---	---	---
	North Platte	100	54	75	+11	0	146	2660	2615
	Curtis	---	---	---	---	---	151	2792	2664
SC	Holdrege	---	---	---	---	---	149	2826	2775
	Red Cloud	---	---	---	---	---	162	3186	2816
SE	Beatrice	---	---	---	---	---	139	2937	3058
	Clay Center	---	---	---	---	---	140	2893	2821

Growing Degree Days (GDD) are used to measure the length of time required for a crop to reach maturity. The formula used to calculate GDD is:  $\text{Max temp.} + \text{min. temp.} \div 2 \text{ minus } 50 = \text{GDD}$ . For example, if the average temperature for a day = 70 degrees, the  $\text{GDD} = 20$  for that day. GDD are calculated for each day and accumulated from April 15.

Growing Degree Day data is furnished by the Department of Agricultural Meteorology, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, The University of Nebraska-Lincoln.